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## About this Report

"The South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report" for FY06 is published by DHEC's Division of Mining and Solid Waste Management.

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# INTRODUCTION

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) established nearly all aspects of the state's approach to solid waste management. The Act, for example, sets statewide recycling and disposal goals. The Act requires the state as well as regions and counties to develop solid waste management plans. The Act calls for each county to report annually to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) it recycles. The Act also requires DHEC to publish a comprehensive annual report – based in part on the required information that counties provide – on solid waste management in the state for the previous fiscal year (FY). "The South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report" must be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by March 15 each year. The report is required – at a minimum – to include:

- an overview of the amount and/or composition of waste that is recycled, disposed of and incinerated;
- the progress of the state and each county toward meeting the state's recycling and disposal goals;
- revisions to the state's solid waste management plan; and
- recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for improving solid waste management.

In addition to providing an overview of the state's management of its solid waste, this annual report helps solid waste directors, recycling coordinators and solid waste planners to: 1) better understand and anticipate the amount of waste disposed of in their community or region; 2) measure the effectiveness of their recycling programs and facilities that manage the waste; and 3) determine future needs.

This report – which reflects solid waste management activities for FY06 (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006) – provides information on all types of solid waste, but focuses on MSW because that is what recycling and disposal efforts are based on in South Carolina. (For a definition of MSW, see page 7.)

Counties and permitted solid waste facilities (except for private, on-site industrial landfills) provide the information used to compile this report. Counties are required to provide recycling information and solid waste facilities are required to report disposal information for the previous FY to DHEC annually.

This year's report includes tables and charts detailing disposal data to assist counties and regions in making decisions on their solid waste management plans. In addition, more information on other types of solid waste (besides MSW) has been presented including construction and demolition debris and industrial solid waste.



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# IT PAYS TO RECYCLE

## *Study shows that recycling has huge economic impact in South Carolina*

While the environmental benefits of recycling are well known, what is less known is that recycling is an economic success story as well. By using recyclables as valuable raw materials, recycling creates jobs, builds more competitive manufacturing industries and adds significantly to the state and national economies.

"The Economic Impact of the Recycling Industry in South Carolina" study, commissioned by DHEC and the S.C. Department of Commerce, shows that the recycling industry is directly responsible for more than 15,000 jobs, \$1.5 billion in annual personal income and \$69 million in tax revenue each year. In addition, the study estimates that the state's recycling industry will grow about 12 percent

annually during the next five years with an economic impact of more than \$11 billion.

Overall, the recycling industry has a \$6.5 billion impact annually on the state's economy according to the study that was conducted by the College of Charleston's Department of Economics and Finance.

The recycling industry is a large and diverse network of public sector institutions (e.g., local governments, state agencies, colleges and universities) and private companies. Types of recycling facilities include steel mills, iron and steel foundries, paper manufacturers, computer and electronics demanufacturers, glass container manufacturers, rubber product manufacturers, pavement producers, plastic reclaimers and converters, private and government staffed collection centers, materials recovery facilities as well as recyclable materials wholesalers.

### **South Carolina ranked No. 1**

South Carolina has the top program in the nation for the management of waste tires according to the 2006 Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) annual report.

RMA evaluated state performance in availability of markets as well as stockpiles and land disposal – both in terms of absolute numbers and numbers per capita.

According to the report, South Carolina – the top performer in 2005 – sent virtually all of its annually generated scrap tires to market and had few, if any, remaining tire stock piles.

